Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

SAM-01 ACDA-10 /088 W

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R 141154Z APR 75 FM AMCONSUL BELFAST TO SECSTATE WASHDC 889 INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN AMEMBASSY LONDON USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 125

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: ANOTHER WEEKEND OF VIOLENCE IN BELFAST

REF: BELFAST 124

1. SEVEN PEOPLE DIED IN BELFAST BETWEEN FRIDAY NIGHT APRIL 11 AND MONDAY MORNING APRIL 14 AS DIRECT RESULT OF SECTARIAN OR INTRASECTARIAN VIOLENCE. ONE MAN A PROTESTANT KILLED AND ANOTHER WOUNDED BY ARMY GUNFIRE FOLLOWING ABORTIVE GUN AND BOMB ATTACK ON CATHOLIC PUB APRIL 11. FOUR WOMEN AND ONE MAN KILLED IN GUN AND BOMB ATTACK PRESUMABLY AGAIN BY PROTESTANTS ON ANOTHER CATHOLIC PUB BELFAST APRIL 12. ONE MAN KILLED AND ANOTHER WOUNDED BY GUNFIRE APRIL 12 IN WHAT APPEARS BE ATTACK ON OFFICIAL IRA MEMBERS BY MEMBERS OR "PROTECTORS" OF IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY. ATTACK ON NEIGHBORHOOD PUB IN WHICH FIVE KILLED AND THIRTY-NINE INJURED APPEARS PARTICULARLY BRUTAL AND SENSELESS SINCE PUB PATRONIZED HEAVILY BY OLD AGE PENSIONERS. FIVE REPUBLICAN DETAINEES, NONE FROM BELFAST, WERE RELEASED AT THE WEEKEND.

2. OFFICERS OF ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA) AND ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE (UVF) MET APRIL 11 IN ATTEMPT END FEUD UNCLASSIFIED

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(REFTEL). FOLLOWING MEETING UVF ORDERED ITS MEMBERS "STAND

DOWN FROM ALERT." TWO UDA MEMBERS STILL MISSING HOWEVER AND UDA-UVF FAR FROM PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

3. VIOLENCE SHARES THE NEWS WITH REPORTING OF AND COMMENTARY ABOUT SPEECH MADE BY GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING SIR FRANK KING IN NOTTINGHAM APRIL 12.

AL IS REPORTED TO HAVE CITICIZED

FREEING OF DETAINEES AS POSSIBLY LEADING TO FURTHER VIOLENCE AND AS REGRETTING TIMING OF CEASEFIRE IN THAT ARMY WAS WITHIN MONTHS OF ENDING PROVISIONAL IRA ABILITY TO CONTINUE. ALTHOUGH GENERAL KING HAS ISSUED STATEMENT THAT HIS REMARKS REPORTED OUT OF CONTEXT AND IT NOT RPT NOT KNOWN HERE WHAT HE DID SAY POLITICAL REACTION IS CRYSTALIZING RAPIDLY ALONG SECTARIAN LINES. LOYALISTS ARE PRAISING GENERAL FOR FRANKNESS AND CLAIMING HIS POSITION DEMONSTRATES SECSTATE REES IGNORING CONCERNS HIS SECURITY ADVISORS IN "APPEASING" IRA TO OBTAIN "SHAM" CEASEFIRE. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) AND ALLIANCE PARTIES ATTACKING GENERAL FOR MISDEED RANGING FROM INSUBORDINATION TO CIVIL AUTHORITY TO ANTI-CATHOLIC BIGOTRY. SDLP INTERPRETING GENERAL'S CRITICISM OF RELEASES DETAINEES AS DEMONSTRATION HIS VIEW THAT ALL ULSTER VIOLENCE ORIGINATES IN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY, GENERAL'S REMARKS PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO SDLP CRITICISM IN CONTEXT WEEKEND VIOLENCE MOSTLY DIRECTED BY PROTESTANTS AGAINST CATHOLICS SEEMINGLY SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE CATHOLICS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, BOMBING, DEATHS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 14 APR 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Camment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason: Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1975BELFAS00125 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750129-0843

From: BELFAST

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750454/aaaabxrp.tel Line Count: 88

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 BELFAST 124 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: ShawDG

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30 JUN 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ANOTHER WEEKEND OF VIOLENCE IN BELFAST

TAGS: PINT, UK To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006